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## BOOK REVIEWS

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*A Students' History of the United States.* By EDWARD CHANNING.  
Cloth, pp. 615. New York: The Macmillan Company.  
\$1.40.

THOSE who read Edward Channing's volume in the Cambridge Historical Series, *The United States of America*, and were delighted with the clearness which marked his setting forth for English readers of the main facts of "American History," as the term is used carelessly, rejoiced greatly when the same writer early in 1898 published for American readers *A Students' History of the United States*.

This seemed at last the ideal history, especially for high schools and academies, and many a college teacher felt that the difficulty in the lack of a well-balanced and sufficiently comprehensive text-book was now met. The well-selected bibliographical notes, the skillfully drawn maps, the wealth of helpful illustration, the suggestions for teachers and students, and the general excellence of typographical details, all combined to make the volume of some six hundred pages a very welcome one.

There were certain marked defects. The quality of paper was such that the book was bulky, and the binding gave forth ominous cracking sounds whenever the pages were turned. These defects the publishers evidently regarded as serious ones, for the new edition which brings the history down to date is much more compact in form, although it contains perhaps a score more of pages, and, furthermore, is much lighter in weight, because of a favorable change in the quality of paper used.

The revision seems to be marked principally by an account of the Spanish-American War of 1898, and here the desire of the publishers to make a salable book has somewhat clouded the sense of proportion and the historic judgment which make the work valuable. Two pictures of battle ships, the largest pictures in the book, obtrude themselves, and while among the seventy-five pages which deal with the Civil War one looks in vain for the faces of "Stonewall" Jackson or Robert Lee, generals whose military genius has received the stamp of

history's approval, in a few brief pages which tell of the war of 1898 there are found the faces of Dewey, Sampson, Schley, Shafter, Merritt, and Miles, upon some of whom the honorable verdict of history has not yet passed.

But the picking of flaws is poor business in view of the general excellence of the work, which marks a distinct advance in school histories, and must take first rank among the text-books which describe the history of the United States.

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